

# Heads up! IPPS-A brownout will impact retirement applications

By IPPS-A Change Management Team

**ARLINGTON, Va.** – Brownout is the final and most significant event in the migration of the Integrated Personnel and Pay System – Army (IPPS-A) to its new users. Put simply, it's the event that transfers data from the Army's legacy systems to IPPS-A.

During the three-week brownout, inbound and outbound transactions of legacy systems are shutoff while data in those systems is transferred to IPPS-A.

"The best thing Soldiers can be doing right now is make sure their records are up to date," said Lt. Col. John Elko, deployment lead for IPPS-A Training & Deployment.

"When IPPS-A goes live, Soldier records need to be in the right place," said Elko. "We don't want Soldiers to experience negative impacts in HR processes because their data isn't accurate or the Soldier isn't properly slotted."

Two groups of Soldiers who should be especially vigilant are those coming into their promotion or retirement window. Once brownout starts, Electronic Military Personnel Office (eMilpo) and the Total Officer Personnel Management and Information System (TOPMIS II) will no longer be operational. It is vital for Soldiers to update these systems while they're still available and maintain an offline copy for their records. Soldiers going before a board should certify their board

file at the earliest opportunity and retiring Soldiers should be prepared to submit their retirement paperwork by Thanksgiving to ensure it's in before the brownout period begins.

It will not be advantageous for Soldiers to wait until IPPS-A is live to update their records with their S1 while their S1 is trying to ensure the new system is set to support their formations.

***Retiring Soldiers should be prepared to submit their retirement paperwork by Thanksgiving to ensure it's in before the brownout period begins.***

Elko wants Army Reserve and active component Soldiers to know that important pay- and benefits-impacting systems like the Defense Joint Military Pay System (DJMS) and the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) will be online during brownout. "DEERS verifies TRICARE eligibility, so that's pretty key to minimizing impact to Soldiers' medical benefits through

brownout," said Elko.

Brownout for Army Reserve and active component Soldiers is eight months away. Still, Elko said he can't emphasize enough the importance of Soldiers checking the accuracy of their personnel records. "The more work Soldiers and HR personnel put in now, the better off they will be come Dec. 21, 2021," Elko said. "They will be able to hit the ground running with IPPS-A."

**"Have a bias toward action – let's see something happen now. You can break that big plan into small steps and take the first step right away." – Indira Ghandi**

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- Getting into myPay after you retire
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